126. Needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that the most important among the needs of Kunnatnad was the transfer of the First Class Magistrate's Court from Alwaye to Perumbavur. If it was a fact that the Retrenchment Committee had recommended the abolition of the court, the recommendation should not be accepted. It was as a result of insistent representations that the court was established at Perumbavur, but it was not known why after the continuance of the court there for over 12 years it was transferred to Alwaye. Perumbavur was the centre of the jurisdiction of the court. With the transfer of the court to Alwaye, the people of Todupuzha, Koottattukulam and other places were put to much inconvenience, because they had to travel a longer distance to go to the court than formerly. Alwaye was only a trading centre with no convenience for the litigant public to stay. There was need only for a Second Class Magistrate's Court at Alwaye. The abolition of the court as a measure of retrenchment would not be a wise step. It was because the Government were convinced of the need for an additional First Class Magistrate's Court in the Kottayam Division that it was established 18 years ago. Since then revenue and criminal work had increased in several directions and there was therefore no cause why it should be abolished. The investiture of the Tahsildar with First Class Magisterial powers was against the policy of the Government and that procedure should not be adopted. In the circumstances, the court should not be abolished and should be transferred to Perumbavur.

The Perumbavur dispensary should be converted into a hospital. The number of out and in-patients was many more than in most of the District Hospitals. The Medical Officer there, besides his work in the dispensary, had to attend the Kodanad dispensary also. There was only one midwife there. The staff and equipment were thus insufficient to meet local demands. The dispensary should therefore be raised to a hospital and a lady doctor appointed there.

Ankamali was a populous trading centre in North Travancore. The nearest hospital was 8 to 10 miles away. Further, the Alwaye river had to be crossed. This was most inconvenient. A dispensary should be opened there or a grant awarded to a medical practitioner.

There were several unemployed youths in the taluk. In order to provide them with employment and encourage industry in the State, an industrial institute for trading, weaving, manufacture of art silk from plantain fibre, etc., should be opened at Perumbavur.

An Ayurveda school should also be opened there.

The need for constructing a bridge at Tannipuzha *kadavu* on the M. C. road had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly. This was the only bridge wanting on this road and it should also be constructed at an early date.

The Kunnatnad taluk was backward in point of public works. The roads from Perumbavur to Kuvappadi and Kizhillam should be made

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

fit for cart traffic after constructing the necessary culverts and bridges. The roads in the Perumbavur town should be widened. The town should also be provided with street lights and public tanks. Necessary stalls should be erected in the vegetable and fish markets.

The jurisdicton of the District Court, Parur, covered the taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Devicolam, but the court was located in Parur, the northern-most taluk in the State. This was very inconvenient to the people of the other taluks. It should therefore be shifted to Perumbavur. This need had been urged on the Government on several occasions.

Most of the land-owners in the taluk were heavily indebted and liable to pay high rates of interest to their creditors. A branch of the Land Mortgage Bank should be opened at Perumbavur to afford relief to these people.

Owing to the untimely and heavy rains and the consequent floods, the Kanni and Makaram crops of 1107 were a failure and consequently, the ryots found it difficult to pay even the tax due on their lands. Proceedings had therefore been started against them for recovering the tax due. Similar was the case of Abkari contractors who were unable to pay the amounts due from them. The concessions already shown by the Government were inadequate to give them any relief. The proceedings for recovery of land tax should therefore be temporarily suspended and an appreciable portion of the tax itself as well as the abkari *kist* should be remitted.

Lastly, he said that a portion of the rental in the Periyar lease should be spent for the benefit of the Kunnatnad taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, the question of shifting the First Class Magistrate's Court from Alwaye to Perumbavur will be considered after orders have been passed on the Retrenchment Committee's recommendation to abolish it. That is still pending.

It has been decided that there is no necessity, at present, to convert the Perumbavur dispensary into a District Hospital.

The question of awarding a grant to the medical practitioner at Ankamali will be considered when the Rural Medical Relief Scheme is sanctioned.

There is an Ayurveda High School at Ettumanur and there seems no necessity for one at Perumbavur.

If an industrial school is started, it will be recognised and a grant-in-aid will be given under the rules if it fulfils the prescribed conditions.

The bridge across the Periyar, which you ask for, must wait until the two bridges at Alwaye are constructed. They are considered to be more urgent.

The other needs of the taluk will be considered as funds permit.

Street lighting, the Village Panchayat at Perumbavur, must itself provide.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The public tank you want must wait until the State finances improve.

The shifting of the Parur District Court to Perumbavur must await the report of the Law's Delays Commissioner.

Branches of the State Land Mortgage Bank will be opened later on after seeing how the business in the Bank here develops.

We have already granted remission of *kist* to arrack and toddy licensees for 1106 ; and the question of similar remission for 1107 is being considered.

No case has been made out, to my knowledge, for reduction of land tax.

127. Needs of Alwaye.

MR. K. A. HYDROSE (*Municipal Council, Alwaye*) first urged the need for appointing a lady doctor in the Alwaye District Hospital. This had been pressed at several previous sessions of the Assembly also but the request had not been complied with. Owing to the absence of a lady doctor many women were suffering hardship inasmuch as they were unwilling to disclose their diseases to men doctors. The matter should be attended to without further delay.

A Munsiff's Court at Alwaye was another long-felt want and a subject of frequent representation at the Assembly. The Alwaye *pakuthi* and the *pakuthies* surrounding it were now included within the jurisdiction of the Perumbavur Munsiff's Court which was miles away, the maximum distance between the court and the limit of its jurisdiction being 18 miles. If a Munsiff's Court be established at Alwaye it would afford greater facilities to the litigant public. If the opening of a court was not feasible, the local First Class Magistrate's Court might, be converted into a Munsiff-Magistrate's Court.

Floods were a frequent occurrence at Alwaye. At these times several people from places surrounding Alwaye took shelter at the town. But it was very inconvenient for the people of Alwaye to vacate part of their buildings for the use of these refugees. A poor-house should therefore be opened at Alwaye for the use of the destitute.

That drink is an evil is an accepted fact. It was not therefore proper for any civilised Government to grant permission to conduct sales in liquor, especially in towns. Although the shifting of the liquor shops from within municipal limits might result in loss of revenue, the loss was not serious considering the interests of the people. The view of the majority of the people was also this. The shops should therefore be removed outside the municipal limits without further delay.

In making nominations to the Alwaye Municipal Council, the Government used to consider the claims of minor communities. This practice was departed from in making the recent nominations by ignoring the claims of the Muslims. In the place of Mr. Haji Abdur Rahiman, the Government nominated a Saraswat Brahmin although

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly